

W. THACKARA BROWN JR.

8835 Glass Pond Ct
Ocean Isle Beach, NC
28469



January 18, 2001

Renata Hesse
Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division
Department of Justice
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530
Fax 202-616-9937
microsoft att@usdoj.gov

Dear Ms Hesse

The U.S. Department of Justice's antitrust lawsuit against Microsoft has been allowed to go on too long, and I believe it begins to smack of excessive use government power in the private sector. Accordingly, I want to express my hope that the proposed consent decree now before the court will be approved quickly.

I have extensive experience in the private sector working with government. I was the Public Relations/Public Affairs for a major pharmaceutical company for nearly 26 years. I know, firsthand, that government can be a constructive partner with business, but I also know that it can be a destructive force.

Microsoft clearly is dominant in the software industry today, but there is no guarantee that it can maintain that dominance. The information-technology industry, like so many industries, has seen dominant companies falter and fail before. In a marketplace as dynamic and fast-changing as this one is, it can and, most likely, will happen again.

This very dynamism, in fact, is the most compelling argument for settling the case. It is far better for America for these companies to fight each other in the marketplace, than in the courtroom. It is through the marketplace, not the regulatory arena, that new software will be developed and new innovations introduced to benefit both business and the individual consumer.

The proposed settlement apparently provides for extensive safeguards against inappropriate behavior by Microsoft. Further, the company has agreed to accept and abide by these specific and far-reaching provisions.

In view of these facts, I hope the court will act quickly to resolve this matter, end the litigation and allow those involved to concentrate their efforts on reenergizing this vital industry.

Let's get back to building America for the future!

Sincerely,

W. Thackara Brown Jr.